

A N
ACCOUNT

O F

Mr. Boon's
CONFESSION:

Together with

The Last Passages

O F H I S

L I F E.

To which is added,

A LETTER to a Friend, enlight-
ning the whole Matter.

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A N
ACCOUNT

Of Some of

The Last Passages

O F

Mr. Boon's Life.

AT the Tryal of the Fore-mentioned Mr. Boone in the Burrough of Great Yarmouth, it was given in upon Oath by Mr. Read the Goaler, and his Wife, and one Warterfield his Keeper, that for several days after his Imprisonment (a Week says Warterfield) he was not in his Senses. Now by reason that he himself after his Condemnation drew up a Paper, which was to be in the Nature of a Confession, and to be Publish'd to the World at his Execution, and which (for reasons hereafter to be mentioned, not being ordered to the Press, nor suffered to come abroad, it is supposed the keeping such Paper from the Publick may Administer an Occasion of suspicion, at least to some of his Friends, That he had not fair play from the Corporation; but was really under

der such a Delirancy. as they avouch, and by Consequence an Object of her Majesties mercy.

To sit all disinterested People Right in this matter; and let them see that he knowingly and willingly cut Mrs. Wenman's Throat, and was truly penitent for the Commission of so foul a Fact, is the design of this ensuing Narrative.

After the Sentence of Death had passed upon Mr. Boon, and the Examination of his Case before the Queen and Council was over (who upon the notoriety of the Fact, left him to the determination of the Law) The Ministers of the Town advised him to think of giving satisfaction to the World, and to leave such a Declaration of his Guilt behind him, as might give Glory to God, and Convincement that he dyed a Penitent.

And considering his Abilities and the Confusion, which through shame, and the speech of the People, and the terrors of death usually seize upon Criminals at the time of Execution, they pray'd he would put his Thoughts into Writing, and cause them to be delivered to the Mayor for Publication; accordingly he did put together so much of his Case as he thought fit to be Communicated; but upon the Ministers perusal of that Writing, they discern'd in it so much want of Judgment, Temper, and Christian Charity as could by no means be approv'd of; and therefore wish'd him to lay it by and Compose another, whereupon he told them, He would trust to his memory, without any Paper at all, believing he should have such an Assurance and so calm a Temper within, as would enable him to deliver himself intelligibly and satisfactorily to every Body; however, upon hi

his leaving the Goal, he took the above-mentioned Paper out of a Drawer in his Table, and ordered Warterfield to give it to the Goaler at his return from the Execution; but he neither desired that the Goaler should deliver it to the Mayor, or that the Mayor might be prayed to Publish it, so that the keeping this Paper from the Light, after the Ministers had delivered their opinion of it, cannot in the least reflect upon the integrity of the Mayor or Corporation, or be supposed to be any ways prejudicial to the interest of the Sufferer.

Whatever Opinion Mr. Boone had of himself, whatever Foundation he had to think he should speak composedly at the hour of Death, he did not answer the expectation, nor was so particular in his Acknowledgment of the murder, and of the Circumstances that induced him to it; For at the place of Execution he was really overwhelmed with Horror and Consternation; and after he had told the People he was brought thither to suffer a shameful and ignominious Death, that he was Guilty of the Fact for which he was Condemned, and that he did deserve to dye, he was perfectly at a stand.

But being freed in some measure from the pressure of his Amazement, through the Assistance of one of the Ministers, he came to his Speech again, and said some things; though a little broken and incoherent, yet of great use to the World, and such as argued him to be truly Penitent; and I shall put them into a little better order than they came from him, but vary nothing from the sense and meaning.

He told us he had been guilty of almost all sorts of sins, for which he said he was heartily

heartily sorry, and hoped thro' the Medi-
 ation of our Lord *Jesus Christ*, that God would
 graciously forgive him. *He was very earnest*
with the people to take warning by his Fall.
He told them, that the neglect of his daily
 Prayers, & the publick Worship of God
 were the reasons that moved him to for-
 sake him; and thereupon pressed all hous-
 holders and others to the use of Family-
 Prayer, & to religious observation of the
 Lord's-day both forenoon and afternoon;
 he spoke in the Commendation of the
 Church of *England*, and said, If there
 were a True Church on Earth it was
 that; *He told us*, That Christians of o-
 ther Persuasions might smooth us, but
 then they would deceive us; But the
 Church of *England* would never deceive
 any Body; and that he hoped to be sav'd
 by the Christian Faith as taught in that
 Church; and as near as I can recollect
 these were his own words; he spoke
 much in praise of our Magistrates, he
 ow'd he had a fair Tryal, and received
 more respects and kindneses from them
 during his Imprisonment, than he had
 known paid to persons in his Circum-
 stances.

stances. He pressed a profound Reverence to them and said, That Civil Obedience would prevent a great deal of that impiety that reigned in the world ; he desired all people to pray for him ; *upon which a united shout of* Lord have Mercy on thy Soul *Eccho'd throughout the Field* ; then in a short Prayer he Recommended his Soul to God, as into the hands of a faithful Creator ; and the Hang-man having received a grant of Pardon from him , after a Convenient Pause did his Office.

All these particulars however disorderly delivered by him, cannot but incline men of Candor and Ingenuity to believe, that Mr. *Boon* carried into the other World a Christian temper and died in hope, notwithstanding his hudding over his guilt of Blood, and acquainting us with what intention of mind, or upon what motives and inducements he was tempted to it.

But to remove any difference that may come that way, the Ministers of the Town knew the inside of him, as being frequently with him during his imprisonment, and they (however reserved as to his secret Confession) declare to such as are inquisitive about him, that he confest to them the Murder and the inducement to it ; and that when he Cut Mrs *Wenmans* Throat, he knew what he did, that the Confession upon the day of his Execution, was the same with that which he first delivered after his imprisonment, and they observed in him Sorrow and Humiliation for his Sins, such Faith in Christ, and Charity to men, as inclined them to think him worthy of Absolution and the Viaticum of the Sacrament, both which he received at their hands the Morning on which he suffered, &c.

This

This is what was thought needful to set people right as to the manner of this poor Wretches Last Conduct and Behaviour.

The LETTER.

SIR.

I have at last obtained a paper of Mr. *Boon's* Confession, which I send you here inclosed, but for the paper himself left behind 'tis not permitted to be made publick, and this will no doubt satisfy all reasonable Persons of the Justice done Mr. *Boon*, I saw that paper this day myself I mean part of it, in which he tells us he was Born of honest Parents in the Year 1666. and was Educated in the Religion of the Church of *England*, and when arrived at Years of discretion, was made Purser in a Ship of War called the *Mary*, and in that and other Ships behav'd himself very well, keeping his Reputation there till an unhappy Accident Ingaged him in a Duel, in which he was wounded in the Neck, which Incapacitated him from following his Imploy; he was afterwards Honoured so far as to be made Captain in the Militia in Sir *Francis Head's* Regiment, where he obtained the good will of the Generality of the Gentry of the County of *Kent*, and was always instrumental in composing Differences that happened between them, as was Sworn at his Tryal by a very worthy Gentleman, he was in the Year 1700 sent by the Commissioners of the Duty on Salt to *Elford Comb* in *Devonshire*, and from thence was removed to *Tarmonth*, where he lived for 20 months in Mr. *Wenmans* Family, and all that time (he says) he never saw any Differences but one, and that was between Mr. *Wenman* and his Wife and himself, he does acknowledge he committed the Murder; but does declare it was done without Premeditation, nor did he think of it the minute before the Fact. *This much with the Paper inclosed is all that's necessary, or that you can reasonably expect from,*

Sir, Yours, &c.

FINIS.

